

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (GAC)
ON SERVICES FOR AGING AND ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

April 14, 2015

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room

Smyrna, Delaware

PRESENT: Mary Lou Andersen, Suzanne Howell, Arlene Littleton (Co-Chair), Lee Perkins, Jim Young

EXCUSED: Patsy Bennett-Brown (Chair), Bob Brown, Ernest Cole, Carolyn Fredricks, Evelyn Hayes, Bonnie Hitch, Katie Macklin, Mary Ann Miller, LaVaida Owens-White, William Payne, Debra Veenema, Barbara Willis, Jalpurnia Trader

VACANT SEATS: (1) Consumer – Disabled Wilmington; (2) Consumer Disabled - Kent; (3) Consumer Disabled-at-Large; and, (4) Disabled Public/Non-Profit At-Large

DSAAPD (Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities) Staff Present: Jill Rogers, Director; Lisa Bond, Deputy Director; Cindy Mercer, Planning Supervisor; Susan Bailey, Executive Secretary

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review of Minutes November 2014
- III. Overview of Qualified Health Plan – Jill Rogers
- IV. Re-authorization of the Older Americans Act – Cindy Mercer
- V. White House Conference on Aging – Cindy Mercer
- VI. Pathways to Employment Update – Lisa Bond
- VII. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Roundtable
- XI. Next Meeting: May 5, 2015 at the Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room
- XII. Adjourn

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by L. Bond.

II. Review of Minutes

In reviewing the minutes of November 5, 2014, a small change was made on Page 2, third bullet. This change was to clarify the wording of “personal attendant” which should be “case worker”. The minutes were then approved with this change. A final copy will be distributed.

III. Overview of Qualified Health Plan

Jill Rogers distributed a PowerPoint presentation and provided an update on the Qualified Health Plan.

- Case for change: health care is confusing for patients and premiums are rising; community organizations face tightening budgets and difficulty coordinating with care providers to help those most in need; providers lack time and resources to proactively coordinate care; and, the State of Delaware faces health care costs that consume 22.4% of the state budget.

- Core elements of Delaware's strategy is to change the way that we pay for health care to link provider payments to better quality and better management of costs; support primary care providers to work with care teams to help high-risk patients better access and engage with the health system; build healthier communities through "Healthy Neighborhoods" to tackle important health needs in the area; strengthen the health care workforce through training and capability building; and build IT tools and resources to provide the right information to the right people at the right time.
- Additional information can be found on the website at <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/dchi.html> or via email at info@dehealthinnovation.org.

IV. Re-authorization of the Older Americans Act – Cindy Mercer

Cindy Mercer distributed a summary of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2015 which extends programs through 2018 to protect vulnerable elders by strengthening the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program and existing elder abuse screening and prevention efforts. This bill is not seeking to change the money amount, only defining how they are spending the money. We are asking that everyone contacts their senator to know that this bill is important and that encourage them to be on board with re-supporting the bill. As state employees, we can only educate, not advocate.

V. White House Conference on Aging – Cindy Mercer

The White House is not funding the same kind of conference as in the past. This conference is held every decade (information is found on www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov) to get broad public engagement. This year's live conference will be held sometime in 2015 in Washington, DC but attendance will be limited. They will be hosting a series of webinars focusing on issues important to older Americans for older adults, their families, stakeholders and others. They are also hosting a series of regional forums (the closest to Delaware would be Boston) and the Executive Director is holding listening sessions with stakeholder groups across the country. Everyone is encouraged to sign up on the website to receive emails and updates, and give feedback on the site itself. Cindy will keep the committee updated about any expansion of the conference.

VI. Pathways to Employment Update – Lisa Bond

This Delaware Health and Social Services program crosses over the different divisions. Lisa reviewed the eligibility requirements and services provided. We are currently working to certify providers in the different services/programs. The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services has clients in this program; the Division of Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities does not at this time. We anticipate approximately 400 clients throughout the Department to participate.

The updated amendment was effective January 1, 2015. The website for more information is <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dsaapd/pathways.html>.

VII. Advocacy Sub-Committee Update

Over \$20,000 is in the Senior Trust Fund; it will never achieve its purpose unless the money grows/increases. Many seniors are not using this program – many are afraid to go to court in fear that it might cause family issues; some are physically unable to get to court. Legislators thought the program was working fine until they heard the findings of this sub-committee. Estimate was based off of number of crimes, not number of criminals.

We are currently looking for mentor resources to develop a source of volunteers to identify those who need help and also to handle these issues for these clients.

Items that are in progress:

- Telemed legislation has passed in the Senate
- End of life issues - portable medical orders
- Absentee ballots for caregivers

We are still keeping an eye on issues as they arise. The Task Force can take a position on any issue that arises and can promote it to the legislature. So far, they have been very supportive to our suggestions.

The committee will bring back the recommendations at the May 5 meeting that they want to take forward to the legislature.

VIII. Old Business

Would like to get an update regarding Sussex County Transportation from Bonnie Hitch at May meeting.

IX. New Business

A brief discussion on the Death with Dignity Bill was held. Committee would like details.

X. Roundtable

L. Perkins – She is glad to be back. She was being a caregiver to her mother. Now has a new insight from the caregiver perspective.

S. Howell – Appreciates receiving minutes and handouts via email before the meeting as it is easier for her to read. Glad to be back at the meetings.

C. Mercer – Shared information on the Delaware Oral Health Forum scheduled for May 3, 2015.

J. Rogers – Introduced Susan Bailey as new executive secretary.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 10:00 am** at the **Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room**.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.